

(17)  
THE  
Speeches  
Of the

KINGS

Most excellent Majesty  
In this

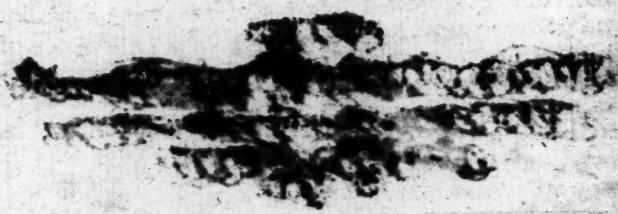
GREAT COVRT  
OF PARLIAMENT.



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# His Majesties first Speech in Parliament, the third of November,

1640.

*My Lords,*

**T**HE knowledge I had of the desires of my Scottish Subjects, was the cause of my calling the last Assembly of Parliament, wherein had I been beleaved, I sincerely thinke, that things had not fallen out as now we see. But it is no wonder that men are so slow to beleave that so great a sedition should be raised on so little ground. But now my Lords and Gentlemen, the honour and safety of this Kingdome lying so neerely at the stake, I am resolved to put my self freely and cleerly on the love and affections of my English Subjects, as the rest of my Lords that did wait on me at York, very well remember I there declared. Therefore my Lords, I shall not mention mine own interest, or that support I might justly expect from you, till the common safety be secured; though I must tell you I am not ashamed to say, those charges I have been at, have been merely for the securing and good of this Kingdome, though the success hath not been answerable to my desires. Therefore I shall onely desire you to consider the best way both for the safety and security of this Kingdome, wherein there are two parts chiefly considerable. First, the chastising out of the Rebels. And secondly, the other in satisfying your just grievances, wherein I shall promise you to concur to heartily and cleerly with you, that all the

world may see my intentions have ever bene, and shall be, to make this a glorious and flourishing Kingdome. There are onely two things that I shall mention to you: First, the one is to tell you that the Loan of money which I lately had from the City of London, wherein the Lords that waited upon me at Yorke assisted me, will onely maintaine my Army for two months from the beginning of that time it was granted. Now my Lords and Gentlemen I leave it to your considerations, what dishonour and mischief it might be, in case for want of mony my Army be disbanded, before the Rebels be put out of this Kingdome. Secondly, the securing the calamities the Northern people endure at this time, and so long as the treaty is on foot. And in this I may say not onely they, but all this Kingdome will suffer the harm; therefore I leave this also to your consideration, for the ordering of these great affaires whereof you are to treat at this time. I am confident of your love to me, & that your care is for the honour and safety of the Kingdome, that I shall freely and willingly leave to you where to begin: onely this, that you may the better know the state of all the affairs. I have commanded my L. Keeper to give you a short and free account of these things that have happened in this interim, with this protestation, that if this account be not satisfactory as it ought to be, I shall whensoever you desire, give you a full and perfect account of every particular. One thing more I desire of you, as one of the greatest meanes to make this a happy Parliament; That you on your parts, as I on mine, lay aside all suspicion one of another, as I promised my Lords at York: It shall not be my fault if this be not a happy and good Parliament.

His



*His Majesties second Speech in  
Parliament, Novem. 5. 1640.*

*My Lords,*

**I** Do expect that you wil hastily make relation to the Houe of Commons of those great affairs for which I have called you hither at this time, and for the trust I have reposed in them, and how freely I put my selfe on their love and affections at that time; and that you may know the better how to doe so, I will explain my selfe concerning one thing I spake the last day. I told you the Rebels must be put out of this Kingdome; it's true, I must needs call them so, so long as they have an Army that do invade us; & although I am under treaty with them, and I under my great Seal do call them subjects, and so they are too, but the state of my affairs in short, is this: it's true, I did expect when I did with my Lords and great ones at *York* to have given a gracious answer to all your grievances; for I was in good hope by their wisdoms & assistances to have made an end of that businesse; but I must tell you, that my subjects of *Scotland* did so delay them, that it was not possible to end there: therefore I can no wayes blame my Lords that were at *Rippon*, that the treaty was not ended, but must thanke them for their paines & industry; and certainly had they as much power as affections, I should by that time have brought these distempers to a happy period; so that now the treaty is transported from *Rippon* to *London*, where I shall conclude nothing without your knowledge, and I doubt not but by your approbation; for I do not desire to have this great work done in a corner, for I shall lay

open all the steps to this mis-understanding, and causes of the great difference between Me and my Subjects of Scotland. And I doubt not, but by your assistance to make them know their duty, and also by your assistance to make them return whether they will or no.



## His Majesties Speech to both the Houses, January 25. 1640.

*My Lords,*

**T**He Knights, Citizens, Burgeses; the principall cause of my coming here at this time, is, by reason of the slow proceedings in Parliament, touching which is a great deale of inconvenience.

Therefore I think it very necessary to lay before you the state of my affairs as now they stand, thereby to hasten (not interrupt) your proceedings.

First, I must remember you that there are two Armies in the Kingdome, in a manner maintained by you, the very naming of which, doth more clearly shew the inconvenience thereof, then a better tongue then mine can expresse.

Therefore in the first place, I shall recommend unto you the quick dispatch of that business, assuring you that it cannot rest upon me.

In the next place I must recommend unto you the state of my Navie & Ports; the condition of both which is so well known unto you, that I need not tell you the particulars, only thus much, they are the walls and defence of this Kingdome, which if out of order, all men may easily judge what encouragement it will be to our enemies,



enemies, and what disheartning to our friends.

Last of all, (and not of the least to be considered) I must lay before you the distractions that are at this present occasioned through the cause of Parliament; for there are some men that more maliciously then ignorantly, will put no difference between reformation and alteration of government.

Hence it cometh that divine Service is irreverently interrupted, and Petitions in an ill way given in, neither disputed nor denied. But I wil enter into no more particulars, but shew you a way of remedy; by shewing you my cleare intentions, and some mark that may hinder this good work.

I shall willingly and cheerfully concur with you for the reformation of all innovations both in Church and Common wealth, and consequently that all Courts of Justice may be reformed according to Law. For my intention is clewly to reduce all things to the best & purrist times, as they were in the time of Qu. Elizabeth.

Moreover, whatsoever part of my revenue shall bee found illegal or heavy to my subjects, I shall be willing to lay down, trusting in their affections. Having thus clearly and shortly set down my intentions, I wil shew you some rubs, and must needs take notice of some very strange (I know not what rearne to give them) Petitions given in the name of divers Countiees, against the established government of the Church, and of the great threatnings against the Bishops, that they will make them to be but a Cipher, or at least taken away.

If some of them have intrenched too much upon the Temporality (if it be so) I shall not be unwilling these things should be redressed and reformed, as all other abuses, according to the wisdoms of former times; so farre I shall goe with you, no farther.

If upon serious debate, you shall shew, that Bishops have some temporall authority, not so necessary for the govern-

government of the Church, and upholding Episcopall jurisdiction, I shall not be unwilling to desire them to lay it downe; but this must not be understood, that I shall any way consent that their voyce in Parliamen should be taken away: for in all the times of my predecessors since the Conquest, and before, they have enjoyed it; I am bound to maintaine them in it, as one of the fundamentall institutions of this Kingdome.

There is one other rock you are on not in substance but in service; and the forme is so essentiall, that unlesse it be reformed, will split you on that rock.

There is a Bill lately put in concerning Parliaments. The thing I like well to have frequent Parliaments, but for Sheriffes and Constables to use my authority; I can no wayes consent unto.

But to shew that I desire to give you content in substance as well as in shew, that you shall have a Bill for doing thereof, so that it doe not trench neither against my Honour, neither against the ancient prerogatives of the Crowne concerning Parliaments, ingenuously confesse, often Parliaments is the fittest means to keep correspondency between Me and my people, that I doe so much desire.

To conclude, now all that I have shewn you, the state of my affaires, my owne cleare intentions, and the rockes I would have you shun.

To give you all contentment, you shall likewise find by these Ministers, I have, or shall have about mee for the effecting of these my good intentions, which shall redouble the peace of the Kingdome, and content you all. Concerning the conference you shall have a direct answer on Munday, which shall give you satisfaction.



His Majesties Speech to both  
Houses of Parliament in the *Lord's* House,  
at the passing of the Bill for a Tri-  
ennial Parliament, the sixteenth  
of November, 1640.



**M**Y Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and  
Burgesses of the House of Commons; you may  
remember when both Houses were with me at  
the banquetting House at *Whitehall*, I did de-  
clare unto you two rocks I wished you to eschew, this  
is the one of them, and of that consequence, that I think  
never bill passed here in this House of more favour to  
the Subjects then this is, and if the other Rock bee as  
happily passed over as this shall be at this time, I doe  
not know what you can ask, for ought I can see at this  
time, that I can make any question to yeeld unto: Ther-  
fore I mention this to shew unto you the sence that I  
have of this Bill, and obligat on, as I may say, that you  
have to me for it, for hitherto, to speake freely, I have  
had no great encouragement to doe it; if I should look  
to the outward face of your actions or proceedings, and  
not look to the inward intentions of your hearts, I  
might make question of doing it.

Hitherto you have gone on in that which concerne  
your selves to amend, and yet those things that meerly  
concernes

concernes the strength of this Kingdom, neither for the State nor my own particular.

This I mention, not to reproach you but to shew you the state of things as they are, you have taken the Government all in pieces, and I may say, it is almost off the hinges.

A skillfull Watchmaker to make clean his watch, he will take it a sunder, and when it is put together, it will goe the better, so that he leave not foorth not one pin in it.

Now as I have done all this on my part, you know what to do on your parts, and I hope you shal see clearly that I have performed really what I expressed to you at the beginning of this Parliament, of the great trust

I have of your affections to me, and this is the great expression of trust, that before you do any thing for me, that I do put such a confidence in you.



His



# His Majesties Speech to both the Houses of Parliament,

February 3. 1640.

**H**aving taken into my serious consideration, the late Remonstrance made unto me by the House of Parliament, I give you this answer.

That I take in good part your care of the true Religion established in this Kingdome, from which I will never depart, as also for the tenderness of my safety, and security of this State and Government: It is against my minde, that Popery or Superstition should any way increase within this Kingdome, and will restrain the same by putting the Lawes into execution.

I am resolved to provide against the Iesuits and Papists, by setting forth a Proclamation with all speed, commanding them to depart the Kingdome within one month, which if they faile, or shall returne, they shall be proceeded against according to the Lawes.

Concerning Rosettie: I give you to understand, that the Queene hath alwayes assured mee, that to her knowledge hee hath no Commission, but onely to entertaine a personall correspondence betwene her and the Pope, in things requisite for the exercise of her Religion, which is warranted to her by the Articles of Marriage, which

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give

give her a full Liberty of Conscience; yet I have perswaded, that since the misunderstanding of the persons condition gives offence, shee will within a convenient time remove him.

Moreover, I will take a speciall care to restne my Subjects from resorting to Masse at Denmark house, Saint James, and the Chappel of Ambassadors.

Lastly, concerning John Goodman the Priest, I will let you know the reason why I reprimed him, that as I am enformed, neith: r. Queene Elizabeth, nor my Father did ever avow, that any Priest in their times was executed meeely for Religion, which to mee seemes to be this particular case, yet seeing that I am pressed by both Houses, to give way to his, because I will avoyd the inconveniency of giving so great discontent to my People, as I conceive this Mercy may Produce, therefore I doe remit this Particular Cause to both the Houses: But I desire them to take into their Consideration, the inconveniences (as I conceive) may upon this occasion fall upon my Subjects and other Protestants abroad, especially since it may seeme to other States to be a severity, which Surprise having thus represented, I thinke my selfe discharged from all ill consequence that may ensue upon the execution of this Person.





His Majesties Letter to the  
 Lords on the behalfe of the Earle  
 of Strafford, sent by the  
 PRINCE.

My Lords,

**I** Did yesterday satisfy the Justice of the Kingdome by passing of the Bill of Attainder against the Earle of Strafford; but mercy being as inherent, and inseparable to a King as Justice. I desire at this time in some measure to shew, that likewise by suffering that unfortunate man to fulfill the naturall course of his life in a close imprisonment, yet so, that if ever he make the least offer to escape, or offer directly, or indirectly to meddle in any sort of Publique businesse; especially with mee, either by Message, or Letter, it shall cost him his life without further Proesse. This, if it may be done without the discontentment of the People, will bee an unspeakable contentment to me.

To which end, as in the first place, I by this Letter doe earnestly desire your approbation, and to end: are it the more, have chosen him to carry it, that of all your House is most deare to me. So I desire that by a conference, you will endeavour to give the House of Commons contentment: Likewise assuring you, that the ex use of mercy is no more pleasing to mee, then to see both Houses of Parliament consent for my sake, that I should moderate the severity of the Law, in so important a case.

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I will



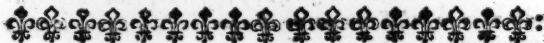
I will not say that your complying with mee, in this my intended mercy, shall make mee more willing, but certainly 'twill make me more cheierfull in granting your just grievances. But if no lesse then his life can satisfie my People, I must say fiat justitia. Thus againe recommending the consideration of my intentions to you, I rest.

Whitchall the 11. of May, 1641.

Your unalterable and  
affectionate friend.

CHARLES, R.

If hee must dye, it were charity to Reprieve him  
till Satterday.



May 11. 1641.

**T**His Letter all written with the Kings own hand, the Peeres this day received in Parliament, delivered by the hand of the Prince. It was twice read in the House, and after serious and sad consideration, the House resolved presently to send 12. of the Peers Messengers to the King; humbly to signify, that neither of the two intentions expressed in the Letter, could with duty in them, or without danger to himselfe, his dearest Consort, the Queen, and all the young Princes their Children, possibly bee advised: With all which being done accordingly, and the reasons shewed to his Majesty, Hee suffered no more words to come from them, but oft of the fulnesse  
of

of his heart to the observance of Justice, and for the contentment of his people, told them, that what he intended by his Letter was with an (if) if it may be done without discontentment of his people; if that cannot bee, I say againe the same that I writ, fiat justitia. My other intension proceeding out of charity for a few dayes respite, was upon certaine information that His Estate was so distracted, that it necessarily required some few dayes for settlement thereof.

Whereunto the Lords answered, their purpose was to be Sutors to his Majesty for favour to be shewed to his innocent Children, and if himselve had made any provision for them, that the same might hold.

This was well liking to his Majesty, who thereupon departed from the Lords; at His Majesties parting they offered up into his hand the Letter it selfe which he had sent; but Hee was pleased to say, my Lords, what I have written to you, I am content it be Registred by you in your House. In it you may see my mind, I hope you will use it to my hapour.

This, upon returne of the Lords from the King, was presently reported to the House by the Lord Privy Seale, and ordered, that these Lines should goe out with the Kings Letter,  
if any Copy of the Letter  
were dispersed.

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FINIS.

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